

Reformer quits Italian Christian Democrats

ROME (AP) — One of Italy's leading hopes for reforming the nation's political life quit the dominant Christian Democrat party Monday, accusing it of opening the door to corruption and the mafia. Mario Segni's bitter announcement struck as the country and his party were reeling from the announcement over the weekend that seven-time Premier Giulio Andreotti, the party's leading figure, was under investigation for mafias. In a further sign of political confusion, Socialist Party leader Giorgio Benvenuto called for a new, broader-based government before the date, in effect withdrawing support from Socialist Premier Giuliano Amato. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who would appoint a new premier, called in the leaders of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies for a meeting Tuesday morning to discuss the political situation. Mr. Segni's departure could set in motion a new force for renewal as well as the humbling of the once-mighty Christian Democrats. Discontented members and reform-minded small parties could well rally under his flag. Mr. Segni, 53, a prominent member of the Chamber of Deputies, has been an increasingly influential thorn in the side of the Christian Democrats, which has been the dominant party in every postwar Italian government.

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Iran wants ex-Soviet Muslims protected

DUBAI (K) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Tehran Monday that Muslims in the republics of the former Soviet Union should be reassured of their rights. Mr. Kozyrev is visiting Iran in a bid to contain Iraq and its growing influence in the former Soviet Muslim republics. Mr. Rafsanjani told him: "Muslims should not feel that following the collapse of communism in what used to be the Soviet Union there are still certain powers seeking to undermine them." This can in the long-run lead to Muslims losing their trust in and sincerity towards these governments and can be finally detrimental to the region and the whole world." Mr. Rafsanjani said the two countries' common interests, particularly in the Caspian Sea, required them work hard for progress and development. IRNA quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying Russia was eager to expand cooperation with Iran and they should both seek to restore stability in some countries in the region. Mr. Kozyrev, whose country has sold Iran sophisticated weapons since the collapse of the Soviet Union, said on arrival the two countries would sign a long-term cooperation accord. This would include measures on "bilateral cooperation for guaranteeing stability in the region and combating terrorism and sabotage."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية واللغة العربية

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Former pro-Israeli militiaman killed

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen killed a former member of Israel's Lebanese militia ally in South Lebanon Monday, military sources said. They said three gunmen in a speeding car opened fire at 23-year-old Hassan Ghannam, who quit the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia last year, in an area just north of Israel's self-styled "security zone." In a separate incident in the south, two pro-Iranian militants were wounded in a firefight with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security organ in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp. The clash erupted when the militants refused to stop their car at a checkpoint in the camp, east of the port city of Sidon.

Yemeni minister visits UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Yemen's foreign minister arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday to try to mend relations which soured over Yemen's support to Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Abdal Karem Al Iryani would deliver a letter to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan from Yemen's President Ali Abdulla Saleh. Mr. Iryani's visit is the first by a senior Yemeni government official to the UAE since Yemen strained its relations with Gulf Arab states who it showed support for Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Yemen lost \$1.4 billion in annual remittances from a million Yemenis expelled from Gulf Arab states, which also stopped financial aid to the country. In January one of Yemen's two ruling parties called for repairing relations with Gulf Arab states.

Woman drug smuggler kills herself

ADEN (R) — A woman killed herself at Aden airport when customs officers found she was carrying bags of sweets stuffed heroin, security sources said Monday. Ilham Mohammad Hasan Yassin, 25, had nine kilograms of heroin with a street value of \$13 million when she arrived from Bombay Thursday, they said. She held a Djibouti passport and was booked to fly to Djibouti the next day. A customs officer searching her bag found sacks of sweets and asked her for one to give to his children. He alerted airport security when she instead offered him \$200 and a valuable watch. When security men decided to make a second search, Ms. Yassin took two red capsules from her purse, swallowed them and seconds later fell to the floor and died.

Israel returns some artefacts to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Monday turned over to Egypt a first batch of archaeological objects it dug up during its 15-year-occupation of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Among the artefacts were 10 tombstones from the Byzantine period decorated with a human figure or crosses and the inscription: "He was a good soul, possessed a good portion in this world, no one lives forever." Egypt also was given hundreds of ceramic vessels found in the cargo hold of a ship that sank off Sharm Al Sheikh in the 18th century, said antiquities authority spokeswoman Efrat Orbach. Israel excavated hundreds of Christian and Muslim artefacts after it occupied Sinai in the 1967 war. It kept them after it returned the peninsula in 1982 under the peace treaty it reached with Egypt three years earlier.

Defence lawyers quit Egypt trial

HAKSTAP (AP) — Defence lawyers for 43 suspected Muslim extremists charged with attacking foreign tourists quit the case Monday because the military judge refused a fifth postponement. Abdul Halim Mandour, leader of the 12-lawyer team, had told Major General Mohammad Wagdi Al Leithy they were too busy with two other Muslim extremist trials to present an adequate defence. Gen. Leithy ruled that four postponements to provide time for defence lawyers to read investigation files was enough.

Arabs defer response to invitation to bilaterals

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The four Arab parties to peace talks with Israel Monday postponed a decision on resuming negotiations with the Jewish state, saying they needed more time to discuss with Washington a formula that will get the peace process back on track.

After two days of talks, the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) criticised the United States for failing to pressure Israel to repatriate nearly 400 Palestinians, whose expulsion in December 1948 led to the suspension of the peace process.

They also complained that Washington has done little to push forward the peace process, launched 17 months ago, and said they viewed with "suspicion" Israel's contacts with the Clinton administration.

Foreign Minister Al Sharra of Syria read a three-page communiqué at the end of three sessions with his counterparts Kamel Abo Jaber of Jordan,

(Continued on page 5)

The Damascus gathering con-

rived amid escalating Arab-Israeli violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in South Lebanon.

The ministers' communiqué condemned Israel's human rights record in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It urged the United Nations to force Israel to allow the return of the 396 expellees, who have been stranded in South Lebanon since Dec. 17, and suggested that the world body extract "a pledge from Israel that it will not resort to the deportation policy in the future."

The ministers, the communiqué said, expressed "concern at the American role, which has not led to the achievement of progress in the peace process so far."

It said a recent visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "raised suspicions and increased Arab concern on the future of the peace process."

The U.S. administration has been widely criticised in the Arab

King attends army celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attended a celebration organised by the Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein Battalion marking its anniversary and the birthday of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein.

King Hussein was received at the celebration site by the commander of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and senior army officers.

At the beginning of the celebration, the King was greeted by the commander of the battalion on its duties.

The King voiced pride in the battalion's personnel.

"I implore God to grant us

luck in performing our duty and keeping our banner high and continuing our march on the path of our fathers and

Jordanian delegation to visit Washington

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A small Jordanian delegation headed by Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, chief Jordanian negotiator in peace talks with Israel, is expected to leave for Washington soon for talks with U.S. officials on ways to end the stalemate in the Middle East peace process.

While no final decision appears to have been taken on the composition of the delegation and its mission, informed sources expected the objective of the trip would be to complement other Arab efforts to prepare the grounds for the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Such efforts will be spearheaded by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton April 6.

According to well-informed sources, the delegation's tasks, which come in parallel to similar missions by the Palestinians and Syrians, will focus on how to remove the obstacles in resuming Arab-Israeli peace talks.

A meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace talks — Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians and Jordan — ended in Damascus Monday with a decision to defer Arab response in the American-Russian invitation to resume the negotiations in Washington April 20 (see separate story).

Dr. Majali, who attended the Damascus meeting along with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, told Jordan Television:

"The Arab foreign ministers (meeting in Damascus) were not fully convinced and so they did not respond to the invitation that came from the co-sponsors of the peace process (the U.S. and Russia) to resume the ninth round of (bilateral) Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington."

"Numerous questions still remain and the Arab foreign ministers are still awaiting answers and clear signs so that they can be sure of their right decision at the right moment," Dr. Majali said.

Mr. Mubarak "will be carrying many questions to the U.S. administration, expecting answers," Dr. Majali said.

Congress adjourns after weakening Yeltsin further

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's congress Monday agreed to a referendum on whether to hold new elections for the president and parliament and then adjourned, ending a four-day challenge to Boris Yeltsin's power.

Frustrated lawmakers, who failed to oust Mr. Yeltsin Sunday, stripped him of more power Monday.

Speaker Ruslan Khatsabulatov closed the emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies by claiming that the lawmakers had blocked "an attempted coup d'état." He did not mention Mr. Yeltsin by name.

Minutes after he narrowly survived impeachment Sunday, Mr. Yeltsin launched strong accusations against the congress at a

rally near the Kremlin.

"The (impeachment) scenario was prepared by specialists from the former Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and it was for that reason that the communist coup failed," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The legislature voted to challenge in the constitutional court the legality of a public statement by Mr. Yeltsin that a move to impeach him amounted to a communist coup attempt.

The congress resolution said the constitutional court should consider whether speeches made at the rally were legal. It also

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Yeltsin counts on people, page 4
Yeltsin acts to raise living standards, page 7

Balladur to form French cabinet

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand Monday named former Finance Minister Edouard Balladur the new prime minister of France following the landslide victory by the right in legislative elections that knocked the Socialists from government.

Mr. Balladur, 63, of the conservative Rally for the Republic Party (RPR), had been considered the most likely man to succeed Premier Pierre Beregovoy, who resigned earlier Monday.

In an unusual move marking the size of the Socialist defeat, Mr. Mitterrand left tradition aside to announce who would serve as prime minister.

The president chooses the premier but normally leaves the announcement to a spokesman.

"In electing a very big new

(Continued on page 5)

French right steps into a mine-field, page 4

New government has narrow economic options, page 7

No seats for National Front, page 8

Edouard Balladur

U.N. retains sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council Monday decided to maintain sweeping economic sanctions against Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine K. Albright said Iraq still had not complied with its obligations under the ceasefire resolution ending the 1991 Gulf war.

"All sanctions remain in place," Mr. Albright said.

She spoke to reporters after closed Security Council consultations in which members decided without taking a vote to maintain the sanctions. The sanctions policy is reviewed every 60 days, and the continuation of the restrictions had been expected.

President Bill Clinton "has made very clear that the United States remains firm in making sure Iraq complies with all sanctions and that is what we did today," Mr. Albright said. "Iraq has a number of unfulfilled obligations."

(Continued on page 3)

MEES reports Iraqi oil shipments to Iran and Turkey; Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq, page 2

The U.S. ambassador said Iraq had not eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction or accepted long-term U.N. monitoring of its weapons programme as required by the Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

"They have not ceased massive repression of its civilian population and they are not allowing cooperation with international relief efforts," she added.

The U.S. envoy said Baghdad also has not accepted the actions of a U.N. commission demarcating the boundary with Kuwait, nor has it accounted for and released all Gulf war detainees.

She said it also has not returned hundreds of millions of dollars to Kuwaiti property taken during the Iraqi occupation.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said Monday it had evidence Iraq had recently shipped an unspecified amount of oil to Iran in violation of Security Council resolutions.

(Continued on page 3)

MEES reports Iraqi oil shipments to Iran and Turkey; Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq, page 2

"Because of the nature of our information there's a limited amount I can say on this subject. But we can confirm a shipment of oil from Iraq to Iran," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Such shipments are illegal under the U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Boucher said Washington remained committed to gaining full Iraqi compliance with all U.N. resolutions and noted this required the full support of the international community, including Iran, which fought a war with neighbouring Iraq from 1980-88.

"We have made our views known to Iran through diplomatic channels," Mr. Boucher said.

He declined to say how much oil had been shipped and when, but an administration official said

(Continued on page 3)

MEES reports Iraqi oil shipments to Iran and Turkey; Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq, page 2

Choose peace or bitter struggle, Arafat to Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday the Middle East was at a "historical crossroads" between a just peace and a bitter struggle that would affect security in the region and the world.

"Today, we stand at a historical crossroad: We could either make use of the opportunity to achieve a just and balanced peace or we would get into a bitter struggle which will affect the security of our area and the world and would multiply the pain, miseries and violence," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Cairo.

He spoke after talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa in which

(Continued on page 3)

they coordinated stands before the Egyptian team begins a tour on Tuesday to Bonn, London and the United States.

Mr. Arafat met President Hosni Mubarak Sunday and entrusted him to negotiate a solution in Washington to the crisis of Palestinian expellees and discuss ideas that would give new impetus to stalled Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Mubarak was scheduled to see U.S. President Bill Clinton on April 6.

Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the PLO delayed Monday a decision to resume negotiations with Israel to give more time to

Government briefs House in secret session

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government and Parliament Monday held a behind-the-door meeting reportedly to discuss the country's policy on the Middle East peace process, the Shabab Al Nafir Al Islami case and the delay in completing Amman-Jerash road among other issues.

No details of the meeting were available to the Jordan Times Monday as the meeting was still in session by press time.

Sources at the House, however, told the Jordan Times that some deputies challenged the government's request to hold the meeting in secret but only 15 out of 65 deputies present voted in favour of a motion to hold the meeting in public.

Sheikh Qarash, an independent Islamist, said the session

U.S. talks produced little in practical terms—Ashrawi

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks, Faisal Al Hussein, and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi arrived in Amman from Washington Monday after holding talks with American officials on the Middle East peace process, stalled since last December when Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

The spokesman affirmed that Palestinian-American contacts (meeting in Damascus) were not fully convinced and so they did not respond to the invitation that came from the co-sponsors of the peace process (the U.S. and Russia) to resume the ninth round of (bilateral) Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

Dr. Ashrawi said upon arrival in Amman that the Washington talks, which lasted for almost seven hours, did not produce any "practical results although it showed positive indications, the seriousness of the American position and Washington's keenness

to achieve peace."

Alleged New York blast claim may signal more attacks

NEW YORK (Agency) — Middle East experts said the World Trade Centre (WTC) might be the first in a wave of attacks as authorities continued investigating a letter claiming responsibility for the bombing.

Police Sunday linked the five arrested suspects in the blast to a letter published in the New York Times saying the attack was in protest at U.S. policy in the Middle East. The letter also warned that 150 "suicidal soldiers" were poised for more attacks, including against "nuclear targets."

The letter, from a previously unheard of group called the Liberation Army Fifth Battalion, angrily protested the policies of the United States, as well as Israeli and other "dictator countries" in the Middle East and warned of future action against U.S. civilian and military targets.

The New York Times received the letter four days after the Feb. 26 bombing which killed six and injured over 1,000, and immediately turned it over to law enforcement officials.

In what appeared a major breakthrough in determining the long-sought motive for the bombing, investigators said they had linked the letter to the suspects being held in the case: Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Ibrahim Al Gabrioni, Bilal Al Kaisi and suspected ringleader Mahmud Ahu Halima.

"There is no question that the letter was prepared by a member of this cell," a senior investigator told the newspaper in reference to the suspects being held in connection with the case.

Middle East expert Avigdor Haselkorn said authorities have to take such letters seriously.

"Letters of this sort cannot be viewed as just some sort of writing. There is a serious capability by these people of carrying it through," said Mr. Haselkorn, a Palo Alto, California-based private analyst specializing in Middle East affairs.

An Arab-American community leader said Sunday he does not believe it could have been written by one of the suspects.

"It was not written by a Muslim fundamentalist or religiously oriented person," said M.T. Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee.

Mr. Gabrioni's attorney, William Knstler, said there was no connection.

"If they had matched the writer up, wouldn't they have indicted him for the bombing?" Mr. Knstler asked.

Robert Precht, lawyer for Mr. Salameh, first of the defendants to be charged in connection with the blast, said his client had no connection to the letter.

"Everything I know about Mr. Salameh is inconsistent with his having sent this letter," Mr. Precht told Reuters, adding that his court translator determined that the return address on the envelope was written by someone unfamiliar with Arabic.

"Salameh writes Arabic well," Mr. Precht said. "All I can say is that the other suspects are native Arabic speakers. I question the authenticity of this letter just on the basis of the physical evidence."

Afghan parties agree on cabinet

CHARASAB, Afghanistan (R) — Afghan Prime Minister-designate Guluddin Hekmatyar said Monday he had formed a cabinet and would ask President Burhanuddin Rabbani for his approval.

"The good news today is that the consultations for formation of the cabinet have somehow been completed," the 44-year-old Hezb-e-Islami leader of the radical Hezb-e-Islami party said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Histoires Naturelles
18:30 The Last Days of Terrestris
19:00 News in French
19:15
19:30
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:15 The Powers That Be
21:45 The Disney Dynasty
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film: "Maid to Order"

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr
05:23 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:40 Dhur
13:12 'Asr
17:57 Maghrib
19:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifah, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541



CELEBRATION: Somali women demonstrating in Mogadishu during talks in Addis Ababa (AFP photo)

Lebanon seeks extradition of RJ hijacker from U.S.

BEIRUT (AP) — Legal proceedings have been started in Beirut to seek the extradition of a Shiite Muslim air pirate serving a 30-year prison term in the United States, Lebanon's court of appeal said Monday.

The prosecution department of the country's highest judicial authority said it would shortly request the extradition of Fawaz Younis, 34, who hijacked a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner with two American passengers on board June 11, 1985.

A spokesman for the court, who requested anonymity, said the move was prompted by a note from Mr. Younis' Beirut attorney, Khodor Harakeh, contending that the United States had no jurisdiction over his client's case.

The prosecution at the court of appeal filed charges of aircraft hijacking and hostage taking against Fawaz Younis a few days ago. His extradition will be requested from the United States in a matter of days, the spokesman said.

Federal agents arrested Mr. Younis Sept. 13, 1987 after luring him to a pleasure yacht cruise in international Mediterranean waters off Cyprus, and took him to the United States.

A federal court in Washington convicted Mr. Younis in 1989 of aircraft hijacking and taking the 70 passengers hostage for 29 hours, and sentenced him to 30 years' imprisonment.

His remarks came after the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar reported the proceedings against Mr. Younis. He declined to answer a question whether the Beirut move could be an attempt to bring Mr. Younis home for a lighter sentence.

The Lebanese government has

been trying to shed the terrorist image that had plagued the country during the 1975-1990 civil war, which turned Beirut into a haven for air pirates, hostage takers, bank robbers and drug smugglers.

Mr. Younis belongs to the pro-Syrian Amal movement, whose leader Nabih Berri was elected speaker of Lebanon's parliament last year.

Mr. Younis and five other comrades seized a RJ airlines jetliner as it prepared to take off from Beirut to Amman, June 11, 1985.

They forced the Boeing 727 to fly to Tunis, where authorities closed the airport and refused to let the plane land. It then flew to Larnaca, Cyprus, to refuel and then to Sicily before landing back at Beirut airport.

The 70 passengers, including two Americans, were allowed to disembark safely before the hijackers blew up the plane and disappeared in nearby Shiite slums.

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Kuwait urges pressure on Iraq to sell oil

GENEVA (R) — Kuwait Monday called international pressure on Iraq to sell oil so some of the cash could be used to compensate civilians, firms and governments who suffered losses in Bagdad's invasion of the emirate in 1990.

Speaking to the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, a senior Kuwaiti official also said it was time to consider transferring part of Iraqi assets frozen abroad into a special U.N. coffers set up to pay Gulf war reparations.

Abdul Rahman Al Houry, chairman of Kuwait's public authority for assessment of compensation for damages resulting from Iraqi aggression, made the plea at the start of the five-member commission's private, week-long governing council under the chairmanship of Spain.

He also urged Baghdad to release any people still held two years after the Gulf war.

"It is Iraq's responsibility to compensate fully those who have suffered losses," he said.

So far, the commission has received 700,000 claims from individuals and corporations for suffering as a result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of the emirate. Kuwaitis have registered more than 200,000 claims, Mr. Houry said.

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. and private relief agencies have stepped up security in Iraq after the murder of a foreign aid worker in the Kurdish-controlled north last week, a United Nations official said Monday.

"We are very concerned about the situation there," Hiroshi Matsumoto, acting coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian programme in Iraq, told Reuters.

"There is ... a need to set up very effective and also very well coordinated security measures," Mr. Matsumoto said.

Gummen shot dead Belgian Vincent Tuleit of Handicapped International on March 22 on a relief mission 45 kilometres from the Kurdish rebel stronghold of Sulaimaniyah.

Handicapped International is one of about 25 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in northern Iraq. Mr. Matsumoto said.

The killing of Mr. Tuleit was the second this year. In January Stuart Cameron of Australian Care International was murdered in Kurdistan.

Mr. Matsumoto said new security to international aid staff limited their activities in cities, barred travel after sunset and compelled them to move about in at least two vehicles.

Mr. Matsumoto said he did not know who was responsible for Mr. Tuleit's murder but said U.N. and private aid agencies operating in the Kurdish north had a meeting with "local administration," demanding maximum security.

Iraq has denied in the past responsibility for shootings of aid personnel and bombings of relief convoys in the north, saying the area is outside its control.

Rebel Kurds have set up regional government in the area and are running their own affairs outside Bagdad's authority.

A U.N.-Iraq aid pact expires Wednesday. It provides for stationing U.N. guards in the north and guarantees smooth access of aid to rebel Kurds and the right of travel to U.N. personnel in Iraq.

'Iraq sending oil products, other goods to Iran, Turkey'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq is exporting increasing amounts of petroleum products, fertilizers and cement to Iran and Turkey, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The report in the Nicosia-based weekly followed a report in the Washington Post that the Clinton administration secretly protested to Iran last week about a large oil shipment it received from Iraq in apparent violation of U.N. trade sanctions.

The economic survey said "reports from Baghdad" indicated Iraq was trucking petroleum products, fertilizers and cement to Iran and Turkey in return for food, medicine and spare parts.

It said the towns of Khisrwan in central Iraq and the southern port of Basra were used for trade transactions with Iran, while the town of Fayda north of the oil town of Mosul was the transit point for trade with Turkey.

The new administration "seems determined to retain the sanctions and weaken the regime domestically by showing up its international isolation and lack of material resources, while at the same time strengthening Washington's ties with the opposition represented by the Iraqi National Congress," it said.

The congress is a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups.

Amal ready to swap two dead Israelis for captives

MSAILEH, Lebanon (Agencies)

— The head of Lebanon's Amal movement offered Sunday to swap the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for hundreds of Arab prisoners held by Israel's militia allies.

Nabil Berri said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) could examine the bodies as long as all women prisoners were freed from Kham prison in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Mr. Berri, speaker of the Lebanese parliament, made the same offer two years ago but repeated it Sunday after signs the pro-Israeli Hezbollah movement and Israel wanted to set up a prisoner swap.

"We will release the two bodies ... in exchange for the release of all the detainees from Kham prison," Mr. Berri told reporters at his home in the village of Msaleh in the south.

The Red Cross would be allowed to examine the two captives and Israel wanted to set up a prisoner swap.

But Israeli officials have said Amal does not hold any of the six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

An Israeli army officer said Israel was examining Mr. Berri's offer, but expressed doubt it would yield to anything.

"He has for a long time claimed that he has bodies, but there is doubt that they are Israeli," said Colonel Reuven Erlich, an aide to Uri Labani, coordinator of the Israeli government's activities in Lebanon.

Mr. Berri spoke during a luncheon he threw for local reporters at his mansion.

"I think the time has come for this exchange. We are willing to do it if Israel is willing to release all the prisoners it holds in the Kham jail, starting with the women captives in Kham."

Mr. Berri has made the offer on numerous occasions over the past two years, insisting his Amal group has the bodies of two Israeli servicemen killed during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Leaders of the Islamic republic are trying a lighter hand on cultural issues. President Hashemi Rafsanjani has even acknowledged that state television, run by his brother, is boring.

"Islam has instructed Muslims to enjoy beauty, political or anti-religious to themselves."

For the moment, the best insurance against an overwhelming invasion is the cost of an illegal satellite dish in a country where the per capita income is \$50 a year.

A dish that can pick up 30 stations from Turkey, including Cable News Network, costs about \$3,000. The owner also needs a garden or roof where the dish can stay covered and undetected during the day.

For Iran's imams, Western culture again the bogeyman

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

television. They have been attacking that culture with renewed vigor, seeking yet another plot to undermine the 14-year-old Islamic revolution.

It is unlikely the religious zealots will let distributors offer the Western films, loaded with sex and violence, now readily available for \$1 a week.

Diplomats and many Iranians believe whatever relaxation there may be is aimed squarely at preserving the Islamic state by diverting public attention from soaring unemployment and inflation. With no ready enemies massing at any border, satellite television is the next-best villain.

It is part of an elaborate balancing act by Iranian authorities, who want to maintain Islamic purity, yet ease the rapidly building pressure for Western culture and more relaxed lifestyles.

Clergymen had feared the video ban was driving Iranians to the forbidden fruit of Western culture, especially satellite

undermine Iranian society. "The enemies of Islam have directed their venomous propaganda at weakening the will-power of our devout youth," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme spiritual leader, said in a speech. "If you lose your human and Islamic identity, you will be westernized, and westernization is like being hit with a flood."

Severe economic problems, combined with inflexible social laws imposed by Islamic traditions, make almost anything Western a magnet for frustrated young Iranians.

Half of the 60 million people are under age 15. Because of fierce competition for education and jobs, millions face lives of little schooling and permanent unemployment.

There are few chances for the sexes to mix because public places, even cafés, are segregated by law.

Before the new law, videos were illegal. Satellite television dishes still are. The punishment for being caught with

national police, said in February that 17,500 drug smugglers and 35,600 abducts had been arrested in the previous 11 months.

Smuggling is usually punished by execution. Abducts are interned for rehabilitation.

Leaders of the Islamic republic are trying a lighter hand on cultural issues. President Hashemi Rafsanjani has even acknowledged that state television, run by his brother, is boring.

"Islam has instructed Muslims to enjoy beauty, political or anti-religious to themselves."

For the moment, the best insurance against an overwhelming invasion is the cost of an illegal satellite dish in a country where the per capita income is \$50 a year.

Artists keep any material deemed erotic, political or anti-religious to themselves.

For the moment, the best insurance against an overwhelming invasion is the cost of an illegal satellite dish in a country where the per capita income is \$50 a year.

Just what he has in mind is not clear. For the moment, state television consists mostly of discussions of Koranic interpretations and interminable footage of mountains and flow-

ers accompanied by traditional music.

Many people believe the government is loosening its grip on Iranian writing and movies hope of finding an acceptable counterweight to narcotics and Western satellite programmes.

"They have this belief, if people look at foreign programmes they will be corrupted, frustrated, but with self-censoring Iranian artists it will be a healthier atmosphere," said poet Shams Langarabi.

Artists keep any material deemed erotic, political or anti-religious to themselves.

For the moment, the best insurance against an overwhelming invasion is the cost of an illegal satellite dish in a country where the per capita income is \$50 a year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

PSD to take delivery of 2 German police boats

By Elia Nasraffah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two medium-class, re-build police boats, purchased by the Public Security Council (PSD) from Germany, will be delivered in a ceremony in Aqaba Wednesday.

Matthias Meyer, counsellor at the German embassy in Amman, told the Jordan Times Monday that the two boats, which were previously in the service of the former East German regime, have been refurbished and rebuilt to help the PSD guard the coasts of Aqaba against smuggling, drug trafficking and other maritime violations.

Meyer said a visiting, four-member German delegation will attend the delivery ceremony in the port city.

The delegation, which comprises three officials from the German Interior Ministry and one from the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, is led by Wolfgang Schreiber, Director of Security Affairs at the Interior Ministry.

According to Mr. Meyer, the delegation is here to hold talks

with PSD officials on scopes of cooperation in security affairs.

The German team, which arrived here Sunday, met with PSD Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid and discussed means of further developing bilateral cooperation in security matters between Germany and Jordan, PSD sources said.

Head of the PSD Public Relations Department, Brigadier Mohammad Tarazi, said the two sides signed a cooperation protocol Monday, defining the types of technical equipment that will be sent to Jordan from Germany under a technical cooperation programme.

Maj.-Gen. Fuheid praised the strong relations between the two countries, expressing hope for continued cooperation, said Brig. Tarazi.

Mr. Meyer told the Jordan Times that the protocol extends to the end of 1994.

Said Germany, which provided Jordan with three helicopters in 1988 and specially-equipped vehicles to track smugglers in 1991, was willing to continue its close cooperation with



Scriber exchange a protocol agreement for cooperation Monday.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King meets with Prime Minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called at the Prime Ministry and held a meeting with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Premier Thougan Al Hindawi and the minister of state. Later, the King held a closed-door meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss several domestic issues and external affairs, and passed his directives to the Premier.

Prince Abdullah meets with visiting German official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein met Monday at the Public Security Department (PSD) with Director of Security Affairs at the German Ministry of Interior Wolfgang Schreiber and an accompanying delegation. Prince Abdullah was briefed at the meeting, attended by PSD Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid, on the close relations between the Jordanian and German security forces. The meeting was also attended by assistants of the PSD director and senior officers.

Minister opens cultural periodicals meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra Monday opened a two-day meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) to discuss cultural periodicals in Jordan. The Ministry of Culture's periodicals, Dr. Samra said, cannot fulfil their mission without the collective efforts and support of the Jordanian writers, artists and the other intellectuals. Suleiman Swiss submitted a working paper on the contrast between cultural periodicals in Jordan and other Arab countries. Another paper, by Shukri Hajji, reviewed the development of the Al Askar Literary Gazette which is published by the Ministry of Culture. Zuhier Abu Shayeb's paper focused on the artistic presentation of the gazette, and two other researchers: Elias Farkoul and Abdullah Radwan submitted papers dealing with two other periodicals published in Jordan.

Antiquities chief returns from study tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Antiquities Department Director General Safwan Tel returned to Amman Monday following a 10-day tour of the United States where he visited universities that conduct studies on Jordan's archaeology. Dr. Tel said he took part in some of the research projects there, delivered several of lectures outlining Jordan's history and discussed prospects for American

university archaeologists to conduct excavations and restoration work on Jordanian archaeological sites, particularly the Nabatean City of Petra.

PSD reports 451 road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Five persons died and 183 others were injured in 451 road accidents in Jordan between March 13-20. The Public Security Department (PSD), which released the figures Monday, said collisions among vehicles accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total number of accidents and most of the injured were below 10 years of age.

Environment seminar to begin in Salt

SALT (Petra) — The Salt Development Corporation is organising a seminar on April 6 to discuss environment problems and proposed solutions. Discussion will cover the adverse effects of industries on the Jordanian environment. Specialists from the concerned public and private sector organisations will address the meeting.

Al Bashir Hospital treats more than 8,000 over 'Eid

AMMAN (Petra) — The emergency department of Al Bashir Government Hospital treated more than 8,000 citizens during the 'Eid Al Fitri holidays. Only 162 were admitted to the hospital, according to sources. The hospital sources said the surgery unit provided medical treatment to 885 patients, and the orthopaedics department treated 639 patients. The children's department treated 1,183 patients and the radiology department serviced 1,690 patients, the sources said. They added that a total of 1,635 patients called at the hospital's laboratory and 207 patients called at the ophthalmology department.

British university students meet with minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of students from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom met here Monday with Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashqabeh and learnt from him about programmes to deal with the problem of poverty and assistance to the handicapped in the country. The delegation is currently on a tour of Jordan to study social development in the rural and agricultural regions of Jordan. The minister briefed the visitors on the difficulties that faced Jordan during the Gulf crisis when nearly a million evacuees passed through Jordan.

Peace or bitter struggle — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

discuss with the United States and Russia the obstacles to the peace process.

Mr. Arafat said he was pinning great hopes on Mr. Mubarak's talks in Washington.

The peace process was suspended in December after Israel expelled to Lebanon 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Islamic groups. The Palestinians demand at least a promise that Israel will renounce expulsions before they will resume talks.

Addressing Israel, the PLO leader said: "We tell the Israeli leadership and the public opinion inside Israel that the moment has come to let reason and conscience reign, so that relations of equality based on the principle of justice, human rights and international legitimacy would prevail."

It is necessary for me today at this dangerous turning point threatening the peace process with the risk of collapse, to reiterate that the PLO is ready to take the real challenge of peace," Mr. Arafat said in a conciliatory tone.

The PLO invites everybody, with no exception — especially, the Israeli leadership to meet our position with a similar one, to protect the future of our people to provide a just solution, that can stand the test of time, and under which our future generation can live," Mr. Arafat added.

He told Israel that its policy of expulsions, suppressive measures against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, its human rights violation and continuation of occupation, would never lead

to peace.

Mr. Arafat assured Palestinians under occupation, where Muslim fundamentalist groups were gaining influence, that the PLO's main objective was to achieve their rights and reach a just, comprehensive, honorable and permanent peace.

He said the peace process, sponsored by the United States, was suspended "because the proposals received by the Palestinian team lacked the bare minimum and because Israel's policy of expulsion and oppression has reached an alarming level threatening the interest of people and their basic rights."

Palestinian officials and diplomats said the United States offered the Palestinians a package of concessions if they agreed to go to Washington on April 20. These included an Israeli under-

taking not to carry out any further expulsions, to ease restrictions on the nearly two million people in the West Bank and Gaza and end human rights violations.

Mr. Arafat said no agreement has been reached yet on the return of the expellees.

Mr. Arafat said Egypt and Palestinian negotiators are in constant contact with the U.S. administration to restart the Arab-Israeli dialogue.

But, he said, "so far, we really have no agreement to report."

Mr. Arafat said no progress has been made on the Palestinian question in the 17 months since the negotiations started in Madrid, Spain. He said the only result is that Israel is tightening its grip on Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"The Gaza Strip is closed off,

and helicopters are destroying houses in the camps. The oppression and terrorism against us are continuing," he said.

Ms. Myers was responding to questions about a report in the Washington Post Saturday that the Clinton administration would shift U.S. policy towards Iraq by no longer demanding President Saddam's removal as a precondition for removing sanctions against Iraq.

Ms. Myers said questions of a possible shift in policy were basically moot since there is no indication that President Saddam intends to comply with the resolutions. "He's shown no intention of doing so," she said.

The U.N. resolutions would require him to give up his

weapons of mass destruction, to cease repressing ethnic minorities in Iraq, and we don't believe that's possible."

Earlier Monday, the White House said that Saddam Hussein would not be able to stay in power if he complied with all U.N. resolutions in order to end economic sanctions against Iraq.

"It is inconceivable that Saddam Hussein could remain in power if he complied with all U.N. resolutions," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said.

He told Israel that its policy of expulsions, suppressive measures against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, its human rights violation and continuation of occupation, would never lead

to peace.

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Press association meeting debates public freedoms

AMMAN (I.T.) — Only 16 out of a total of 250 registered Jordanian journalists attended Monday's general assembly meeting at the headquarters of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the assembly endorsed the JPA's administrative and financial reports, as well as statements about the health insurance programme and the journalists' pension scheme.

The meeting, which was presided over by JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah, reviewed the

association's achievements last year and efforts with the government and the local newspaper owners to establish a permanent headquarters and a press club for Jordanian journalists.

The question of demanding that the newspapers pay JPA one per cent of their profit from the advertisements was included on the agenda.

Petra said topics related to public freedoms, the new press and publications law and the role of the JPA in unions' activities were also debated.

By reviewing the current situation

Consumer advocates urge new protective legislation

Eliot M. Goldberg
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian consumers are not adequately protected under current laws and regulations, according to the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP). These lapses have directly affected the quality and affordability of services and products available in Jordan.

At a conference hosted on Monday by the NSCP at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, a series of panels presented papers on these issues.

According to NSCP Secretary Treasurer Abdel Fatah Al Kilani, the group's objectives are to stimulate open dialogue on consumer protection, encourage policy-makers to take appropriate legislative action, and to educate the Jordanian public on the problems they face.

According to some attendees, currently, regulations affecting the welfare of the Jordanian consumer are few and far between and suffer from a lack of a coherent structure for their development, implementation, and enforcement.

Holding examinations was suggested as a means of assuring their ability.

Members emphasised that any companies found operating without proper certification should be closed down.

Methods of enforcement and inspection should therefore be developed, they maintained.

Members of the NSCP also advocated working with the health profession to insure that

all Jordanians have access to affordable health care and medicine.

In addition to setting price ranges according to income levels, the NSCP is encouraging the prescription of generic drugs which, overall, cost less than their brand-name equivalents.

Although supportive of the free market in Jordan, some participants cautioned against any quick action regarding the removal of government subsidies of various products because of pressure from the World Bank.

While proper competition can serve to keep prices reasonable, it is unclear how long and severe subsequent price fluctuations will last. We should move forward, but not by placing the consumer at uncertain risk.

The NSCP, founded three years ago, has strived to include in its discussions members of the business community.

On the basis that all Jordanians are consumers, the society believes that through broad participation they can establish a cooperative environment for addressing issues of common concern to all Jordanians.

Cairo health meeting to review Arab region's major problems



Aref Bataineh and sound application of rules that ensure control of their production.

Countries from North Africa and the Near East are taking part in the meetings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition entitled the Memory of Silk, displaying traditional Jordanian and Palestinian costumes, shawls, carpets, pottery copperware, from the Widad Kawar collection — at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghannam at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.

* Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.

THEATRE

* Play entitled "The Death of Thebes" at the Royal Cultural Centre's main theatre at 8 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* Arabic recital by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, with two of his poems sung by Tania Nasser, at the Philadelphia Hotel at 8:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY

Jordan University of Science & Technology

Tender No. (14/93)

Due to the request of many participants in tender No. (14/93) concerning the consulting and supervision of the construction of the King Abdullah Hospital Project, Jordan University of Science and Technology announces the extension of the closing date for submission of the Tenders documents till 12:00 noon, Monday 10th of May 1993 in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Each applicant is requested to update his technical pre-qualification documents and present them in a separate envelope marked "Technical Offer."

2. The financial proposal should also be submitted in a separate envelope marked "Financial Offer."

3. The submission of both the "Financial Offer" and the "Technical Offer" shall be on the above mentioned date.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الجريدة العربية الوحيدة التي تنشر في الأردن

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Jordan Times advertising department.

To avoid double standard

WHATEVER policy the U.S. may wish to pursue as regards Iraq, the Americans must remember that no U.N. resolution has called for the replacement of the Iraqi leadership. That that leadership is not a benevolent one to its own people is certainly a matter for the Iraqis themselves to decide. No one should dictate to the Iraqis how they should go about their internal affairs. When it comes to international law and U.N. resolutions, the state of Iraq, like every other U.N. member, should abide by international consensus. The U.N., under the control of Western powers, has lost a great deal of its credibility over the years by applying double standards and being selective in its enforcement of its resolutions. The Israeli refusal to abide by Security Council Resolution 799, regarding the return of Palestinian deportees, and the U.S. covering for the Israelis are clear indications of double standard policies in dealing with sensitive conflicts. If Israel could be spared U.N. sanctions for agreeing to a phased implementation of Resolution 799, Iraq, which has adhered to most of the stipulations of more than half a dozen Security Council resolutions, should be accorded similar treatment.

So far almost all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed. Its fighting capability has been reduced to a minimum. The Iraqi people are starving; and the Iraqi children's mortality rate has tripled. Not only that. The weakening of Iraq has given Iran increased strength and a greater say in regional matters. Arab states and the West in general are becoming alarmed at Iran's arming and its intervention in the Arab World's internal affairs.

The Iraqi regime and the Iraqi people, who continue to suffer under the U.N.-imposed sanctions should not be expected to succumb to what they see as injustice on behalf of the U.N. and Western powers. They have the right to refuse to sell their oil through the U.N. It is therefore high time for the Security Council to take into account the balance of power in the region, grievances by the Iraqi people and Arabs and Muslims at large and the plight of the Iraqi people who so far endured hardship and misery through no fault of their own.

The conflict between Iraq and the West, particularly the U.S., is less an issue of Iraq's compliance with the U.N. sanctions and more the U.S. insistence on removing the Iraqi leadership — something that in itself is illegal according to the U.N. Charter. The U.S. cannot claim that it is the guardian of international legitimacy while it pursues internationally illegal policies and actions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the upsurge of resistance activities in the occupied Arab territories by saying that the resistance and the intifada remain the only tools in the hands of the Palestinian people to confront the Zionists' arrogance. The Palestinians have decided to opt for the use of weapons of all kinds in order to regain their rights now that the Israelis and the Americans have scoffed at all bids by the Arabs and the Palestinians to reach a peaceful settlement, said the daily. By creating this brave popular resistance, the Palestinians defy all types of advanced weapons and the arsenals of sophisticated arms in the hands of the United States, Israel and their allies, said the paper. The victory achieved by the Vietnamese people over the United States presents us with the best example of how a popular confrontation can result in victory over the aggressors, said the daily. The Palestinians seem to have now absorbed all lessons of past conflicts around the world, and have opted to use their guns and their knives in order to rid their occupied land of the Zionist invaders, continued the paper. Through this kind of struggle, the paper said, the Palestinians are bound to dissipate all the dreams of the Jewish state and bring final defeat to its troops. The Palestinians, along with all the oppressed Arabs and Muslims of the world, have decided to confront the neo-imperialists, and their decision is sound and final, said the paper. This confrontation, it concluded, is bound to make obsolete all kinds of sophisticated weapons like planes and rockets in the hands of their enemies.

At the time when the Arab foreign ministers continued their Damascus meeting to discuss means to reach peace through negotiations, and while the Palestinians continued their contacts with the U.S. administration to remove obstacles in the path of the peace process, the Israelis issued statements revealing their adamant position, said Al Dastour daily. After receiving invitations to resume the peace process in Washington, the Arabs have been meeting to find means to respond favourably to this call; but the Israelis have been poisoning the atmosphere through their statements, indicating further intransigent positions, the paper said. It said it is Israel that has been expected to offer concessions to pave the ground for the Arab parties to return to the negotiating table, but one can see that the Rabin government is determined to undermine all bids towards attaining peace. Israel is, in fact, creating the obstacles before the Palestinians and the other Arab parties by refusing to return the expelled Palestinian and by stepping up repression against the Arab population in the occupied lands, said the paper. "As we continue to look with hope to the outcome of the Palestinian-U.S. contacts in Washington and the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers' endeavours to find a way out of the present deadlock, we also hope that the concerned parties will decide on measures that can by no means allow the Israelis to have their own way, or to succeed in making the world community blame the Arabs for the collapse of the peace process," said the paper.

The View from Fourth Circle

Red flags, green flags, wolves and sheep

I HAVE been astounded to follow the recent debate, in the region and in many other parts of the world, about the prospects for democratisation in the Arab/Islamic World. I say astounded because in most cases, the debate has been presented as a choice between democracy or Islam, with little in between.

The predominant assumption is that the powerful Islamist political movements that dominate the region today will try to use democracy to gain power, and this will mark the end of the world, or something like that in contemporary political terms.

I find it very sad, and a telling reflection on the thin character of democratic forces in the Arab/Islamic World, that we should have allowed the debate on the single most important issue that will determine our future — the nature of our political systems and the relationships between the governed and the governing — to have deteriorated into a series of stereotypes, caricatures and frightening spectres.

The facts of the real world may be rather different from the mutterings of ignorant Western politicians and self-serving, commercialised intellectuals who have jumped in one fell swoop from fighting Communists to fighting Islam; the facts are also rather different from the fears of Arab politicians and their patrons who have enjoyed the fruits of power and unchallenged incumbency for most of this century, but who now find themselves haunted by ghosts and goblins of their own making.

Specifically, I think there are two assumptions by those who doubt the compatibility of Islam and democracy and who also fear the political ascendancy of Islamist forces, and both wrong assumptions are explained by the same reason.

The reason is that the ongoing quest for a new social and political order in the Arab/Islamic World will necessarily change or even reverse many of the policies that have brought this region to its current brittle and violent state. In other words, democracy and/or the politics of Islam will mean that most of the old guard will be thrown out of office, unceremoniously dumped by their own people and relegated to history as a brief and grievous footnote in an otherwise rational and rich tale of national development.

We do not know what the region's political configuration will look like in a decade or two, but we can be certain that it will not maintain its current shape and direction, because the current politics of the region have brought only pain and suffering to many people, and national humiliation to most people.

It should be obvious by now that those in the West or in the region who fear democracy in our lands really fear losing the privileges they have enjoyed through the dominance of undemocratic, usually autocratic systems of centralised control of military and fiscal power. Furthermore, those who claim that democracy and Islamic culture are incompatible really mean that an Arab/Islamist brand of democracy will be different from Western-style democracy, and may express powerful anti-Western sentiments that have brewed in the Arab/Islamic World for well over a century.

Therefore, many in the West declare that Arab/Islamist democracy should be shunned as something not only dangerous but also unnatural! Many in the West offer us today a warmed over version of the same discredited 19th century North Atlantic colonial racism that saw Blacks, Indians and other folks with tinted skins as incapable of assuming control over their own lives — and we should throw this new political racism back at those who offer it just as fiercely as we rejected colonialism itself.

The corollary concern, in the West and around here, that Islamist politicians will use democracy to gain power, and to stay in power forever, strikes me as an argument based more on fear, guilt and laziness than on anything more politically substantive. Islamist politics has gained ground because the Arab political forces of militarism and statehood-as-private-feudalism that hijacked this region in the 1950s and 1960s have proved themselves unable to respond to people's real needs. The spectre of Islamist

rule scares the incumbents because it confirms their failures and vulnerabilities. The political elite is not afraid of Islam as such; it is really afraid of political unemployment.

To suggest, however, that Islamists will try to gain power and then end political pluralism forever strikes me as a naive argument that unnecessarily weakens the political and human vitality of our region. The grassroots pressure that now bolsters the Islamists will turn against them if they cannot deliver the goods, and the Arab World's extraordinary experience of expressing grassroots political identity over the last several thousand years will not suddenly hibernate or die if and when Islamists take power. Keep your eyes on Iran for further progress on this front.

Islamic fundamentalism has proved to be an effective force for public protest, political challenge, and personal solace, but in modern history it has proved unable to translate its vision into a coherent political programme that responds to people's practical needs. It has never succeeded in providing a blueprint for durable statehood. (Neither have Jewish Israel and once predominantly Christian Lebanon, the other attempts at religious-based statehood in the Middle East, both of which are troubled models of quasi-viable sovereignty deeply dependent on foreign sources of funding, protection, or armament, and both of which have lived in perpetual insecurity since their birth in the middle of this century).

Islam is neither the problem nor the answer. It is merely the most efficient vehicle for expression of mass anger, and of near despair in many quarters. The problem is social inequity, political indignity and national humiliation felt by Arabs/Muslims on a large scale.

The several countries that rely heavily on Islam as a guiding political principle — Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, Sudan — all have their good points and fine traditions, but all are characterised by severe political tension, economic distortion, and woeful deficiencies in democracy and respect for human rights. In other words, Islamist politics is not really the problem people perceive it to be; the real problem is theological politics in general.

Islamists now find themselves politically challenged head-on and in public by forces that bad not dared to confront them in previous years, whether from religious courtesy or political fear. In 1989-1992, as the Islamists stepped down from the elevated platform of heavenly protest and trudged into the mud of parliamentary debate and political battle, they shed some of their aura of invincibility and infallibility. They were not, as some had first seen them, God's messengers on earth, for God had already sent us his prophets.

The Islamists came to be seen for what they were: dynamic political leaders with a strong moral twist. If God approved of their deeds, he did not necessarily determine their fate in the political arena. That would reflect the results of temporal electoral battle. The Islamists, used to being fought by governments in Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq and other states, are also fought today by competing political groups in Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Egypt and other lands. They are challenged in Parliament and the press, confronted in local elections, and generally treated as a credible political alternative rather than a sacred heavenly force.

When they ventured forth from the house of God to the house of Parliament, Islamic political leaders shed the protective shield of their spiritual sanctity. They have shown since that they can

wheel and deal with the best of them, arrange complex political deals, make or break coalitions, and keep their finger firmly on the political pulse of the land — advancing or retreating as required by the lure of power, the exigencies of incumbency, the fear of defeat, and the spoils of victory.

Like all political leaders, Islamists are ultimately accountable to their constituency for their public positions, and their constituents asking for blessed righteousness and sacred rage along with jobs, reasonably priced food, clean water, affordable housing and university education. Many Arabs, a majority in some countries, are willing to give the Islamic parties a chance to prove their political prowess and leadership qualities. These parties experience to date, where they have won local or national power through the ballot box (Jordan, Algeria), by allying themselves to the ruling military junta (Sudan), or simply by virtue of their status as one of several ethnic-religious groups in a power-sharing system (Lebanon), is too short to judge their capacities as administrators and political managers.

Islamist politicians are discovering that the test of incumbency is far different from the test of opposition, that it is far easier to proclaim that "Islam is the answer" than it is to create millions of new jobs or redress national water balances dangerously in deficit. As they continue to play a role in decision-making, Islamist leaders will be subjected to the same standards of accountability as the leaderships they ousted. They will have to deal with the same problems that they used to challenge and, ultimately, used to discredit many Arab leaderships. How well they or others solve those problems will determine their own future, political status, as well as the political fate of the Arab World.

In the meantime, dazed Western politicians and scared Arab power-brokers should snap out of their traumatised intellectual fog and deal with the challenge of the politics of Islam in a more rational and productive manner than they have dealt with the many other challenges of modern Arab statehood.

The policies of the past — autocracy, heros-worship, militarism, and blatant materialism — are known quantities, and deep, shameful failures. They cannot be brought out for a final, pitiful performance by the political wolves of modern Arab power politics against the Islamists, because such policies will only strengthen the conviction of the electorate that, indeed, the existing power structure is the problem, and consequently, Islam may be the answer.

Instead of denying democracy and manipulating the political and security systems to keep out the Islamists at any price, the ruling Arab regimes and their Western cheerleaders and armourers should try to respond in the same political currency used by the Islamists. Incumbent powers should rise to the challenge that has erupted from deep within their own Arab community — a challenge to work for a better society, or else get out of the way and let someone else try their hand.

Islam is neither the problem nor the answer. It is merely the most efficient vehicle for expression of mass anger, and of near despair in many quarters. The problem is social inequity, political indignity, and national humiliation felt by Arabs/Muslims on a large scale.

The solution is better governance, the politics of participation and accountability, and a system that allows people to feel that they are being treated like human beings, rather than like sheep. The first party to deliver these rights to Arabs/Muslims will emerge politically triumphant. The others will scream and wave red flags, or green flags, but they will wave in vain if they do not offer a political programme that responds to people's rights and aspirations.

This is democracy's ultimate message in the Arab/Islamic World, which is why the incumbent Arab and Western powers fear it so much, and why the people crave it so much.

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Victorious but wary

French right steps into a minefield as it marches to power

By Francois Raithberg
Reuter

find some nasty surprises when they get through the ministries' gates.

France today is a minefield and the government is pursuing scorched earth policy," Mr. Chirac said in the election campaign.

Conservatives are set to vastly outnumber their defeated Socialist foes in the National Assembly elected Sunday. But like any conquering army, the conservatives fear stepping into a minefield laid by the retreating enemy.

Leaders of the Centre Right Union for France (UPF) coalition have accused the government of leaving booby traps behind and warned President Francois Mitterrand, the last pocket of Socialist resistance, against any rear-guard action.

What they most fear is the lone sniper at the Elysee Palace.

Opposition generals claim the Socialists have left numerous time bombs: soaring budget, social security and pension fund deficits, farm and fisheries crises, concealed unemployment and a potential clash with the United States over the GATT world trade negotiations.

The first shots in a "cabotage" guerrilla war were fired even before Sunday's election.

Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, who was Mr. Mitterrand's prime minister in 1986 when the wily tactician managed to turn the tables and bring the Socialists back to power within two years, urged the president to lay down his arms and quit.

He backed down when Mr. Mitterrand threatened to sack Mr. Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) when picking the next premier.

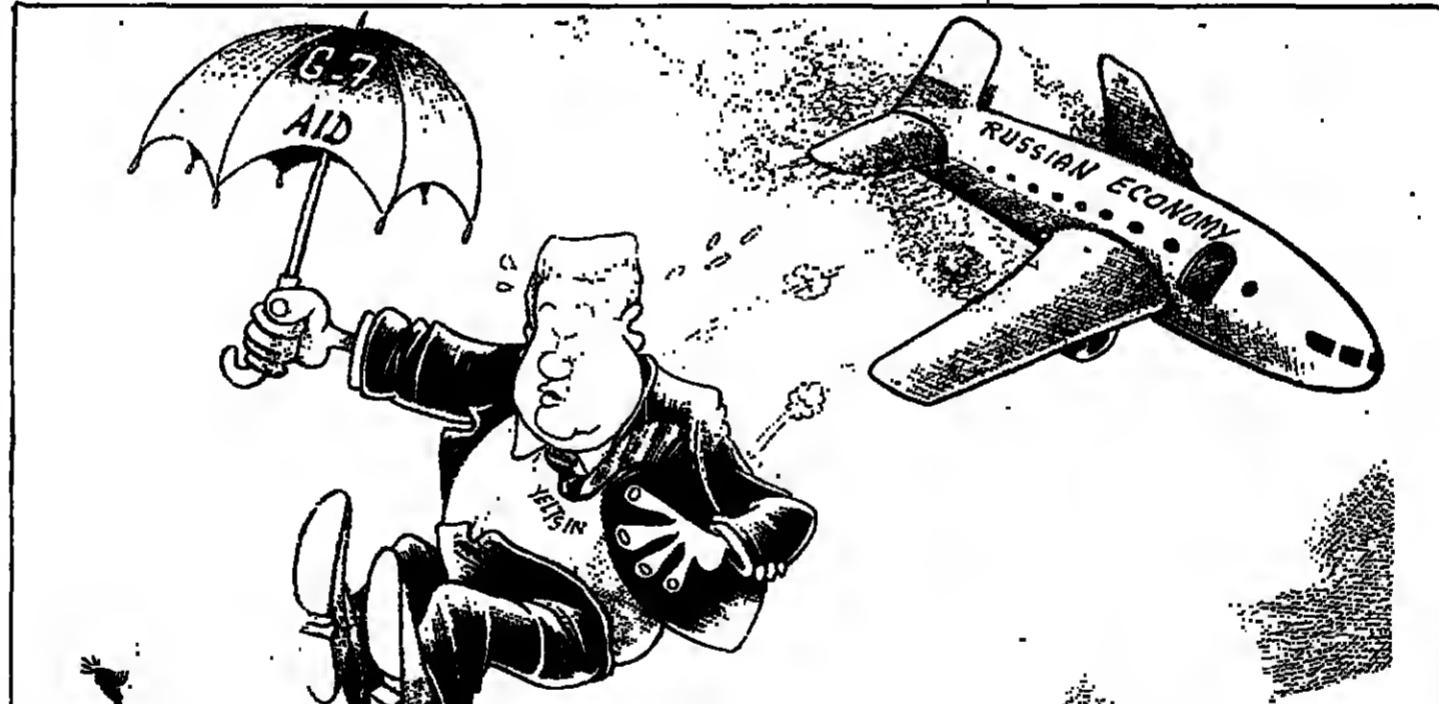
Mr. Mitterrand, bopping to leave the Elysee to a leftist in the 1993 presidential election, has refused to cut his term short.

He told an emotional meeting of the outgoing cabinet he would stay as a bulwark against any attempt to cut welfare or undermine European unity.

Mr. Chirac has warned that the 76-year-old president would not have his way this time.

"Cabotage is not sharing power with waning socialism. It is the new majority exercising its powers fully," he said.

The conservatives fear they will



The final battle?

After defeating congress bid to impeach him, Yeltsin is counting on the people to outlaw the legislature

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

people and finally bear own leader.

The congress apparently made a psychological mistake in slapping down Mr. Yeltsin's compromise bids. By piling insults on humiliations, it finally aroused a backlash of popular sympathy for the president.

Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet ministers, whose mixed political backgrounds had raised questions about whether they would stand by him in a crisis, came out openly behind him in a crucial show of support.

The Communist coup d'état did not take place because the people won and reforms won," a triumphant Yeltsin told 5,000 supporters who had massed throughout the day in Red Square at the foot of the Kremlin.

The conservatives also turned on congress Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov after he proposed a compromise deal with Mr. Yeltsin. But they failed to get enough votes to sack him.

Although congress hardliners vowed to fight on still more furiously, they were left in a vulnerable position after alienating not only the president but also Russia's government, many of its

"Yeltsin remained the president but ceased to be the leader of the nation. This is a triumph of the power of the people," deputy Sergei Badurin told reporters.

Aides interpreted Mr. Yeltsin's success in awakening the sleeping Russian giant as a good sign for his planned referendum and vote of confidence in himself on April 25.

"Considering April 25, this is a victory," Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai told reporters.

If Mr. Yeltsin muster enough popular support, his referendum could kill off the 1,033 strong congress, a remnant of the Soviet era packed with old style apparatchiks hostile to reform.

He proposes to ask voters whether they want a new constitution which would abolish the supreme legislature and dissolve the smaller standing parliament pending new elections.

The failed vote to sack Mr. Khasbulatov drove a wedge between the congress and its chairman, virtually the only member of the legislature with the clout to stand up to Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Khasbulatov's willingness to try to reach a deal with Mr. Yeltsin could indicate that he now believes that the unruly supreme legislature's days are numbered.

After the vote, both sides claimed victory for themselves and for the people. But only Mr. Yeltsin, flanked by his cabinet, actually had a massed gathering of the people to address.

"Those in power seem to have only one remaining ambition: to make life impossible for the future government," RPR hardliner Charles Pasqua said.

Features

Settler killed in Gaza Strip

(Continued from page 1)

Monday's victim, Shbaya Deutch, 40, was stabbed near his greenhouse in the settlement of Kfar Yam, said Uri Arieli, a settler leader.

The army confirmed the stabbing saying forces were carrying out searches for the murderer.

With criticism persisting, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has sought to calm the public by urging more Israelis to volunteer for civil guard duty. A call Sunday by Mr. Rabin for high school students to use clubs to ward off knife attacks sparked heated debate from both liberals and right-wingers Monday.

The debate reflected the mounting frustration with a wave of attacks that has left 10 Israelis dead in March, mostly in individual stabbings or shootings. In addition, 25 Palestinians have been killed in the unrest, triggered largely by the stalemate in Mideast peace talks that followed Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December.

Israeli newspapers reported the government may issue clubs to high schoolers, but Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said schools would have to issue such weapons. He added that self-defense training for teen-agers, once common in Israel, may be renewed.

Some liberals backed the idea.



Two Palestinians and a small boy in a Hebron registered car are held back at an Israeli army roadblock in Bethlehem (AFP photo)

"There is a certain reality today where 16- to 18-year-olds have to be alert. Nobody has been killed by a small stick or club... nor have bullets ever accidentally been fired from a stick," said Education Minister Shulamit Alom of the left-wing Meretz Party.

But criticism came from leaders of the right-wing Likud Party, who argued it was the government's job to maintain law and order.

Lawmaker Benjamin Begin, son of the late former Premier Menachem Begin, accused Mr. Rabin of turning the public into "one big army."

He added that the government's suggestions it would trade land for peace with the Arabs also showed a "lack of direction."

Avraham Burg, head of the parliament education committee, mocked the idea, asking: "Where will they put it, in their school bag? Next to their sandwich?"

"There is no end to this arming of David and Goliath. On the first day of school they'll be banding out school books, notebooks and sunglasses," Mr. Burg said on Israel Radio.

Monday's stabbing brought to 129 the number of Israelis slain during the Palestinian uprising against occupation that began in December 1987. Israeli soldiers or civilians have killed 1,070 Palestinians during the revolt.



A group of people, including children, gathered around a person who appears to be injured or deceased, possibly a victim of the conflict (AFP photo)

In a heated public debate over how to stop the violence Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the government had not found a way to stop the knifings.

"There is no problem in using all the force necessary to battle



Arabs was the only solution to violence but Israel would offer no gestures to encourage Palestinians to resume deadlocked peace on April 20.

The talks have stalled over the Dec. 17 expulsion of Palestinians.

The Communists held 23 of

thier 26 seats, but the ecologists and far-right National Front failed to enter the new lower house at all — leaving some 20 per cent of voters unrepresented.

Conservative leaders, following Mr. Balladur's example, pledged consensus, but the huge majority is likely to highlight rather than bury divisions in the fractious RPR-UDF alliance.

Mr. Balladur will have to tread a fine line between Mr. Mitterrand and his own party hardliners demanding a radical departure from Socialist policies and a harder line on agriculture and world trade negotiations.

The centre-right programme bears many similarities to the outgoing government's approach — a strong franc, commitment to European union and lower unemployment through growth rather than increased public spending.

"The new government... will be the government of all French people, which must act with firmness, moderation and tolerance," RPR leader Jacques Chirac said in a television address.

Victims of the landslide included the Socialist front-runner

— to succeed Mr. Mitterrand, ex-

Premier Michel Rocard, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Justice Minister Michel Vauzelle, Finance Minister Michel Sapin and former party leader Lionel Jospin.

Mr. Beregovoy, party leader Laurent Fabius and Culture Minister Jack Lang all scraped home, but none looks in a position to lead the revival of a party pronounced all but dead by many members.

Congress weakens Yeltsin further

(Continued from page 1)

taken. He did not elaborate.

On a vote of 666-83 later Monday, the congress approved four questions for the April 25 referendum: Whether voters have confidence in Mr. Yeltsin; whether they approve of his free-market reforms; whether there should be early presidential elections; and whether there should be new parliamentary elections.

No date was given for the new elections. Presidential elections currently are scheduled for 1996, and parliamentary elections are set for 1995.

The question about market reforms is potentially hostile to Mr. Yeltsin, because Russians have seen their living standards deteriorate sharply in the past year. Many Russians support Mr. Yeltsin personally but are angry about soaring inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin originally proposed the referendum as a vote of confidence in him and as a chance for the people to approve a new constitution that would allow private ownership of land and replace the congress with a smaller legislature.

The 617 votes to oust Mr. Yeltsin was just 72 short of the needed two-thirds majority, and 265 higher than a congress vote of 352 for impeachment last fall.

Only 339 lawmakers voted to replace Mr. Khasbulatov. A simple majority, 517 votes, would have been needed to replace the 50-year-old parliament leader.

The congress approved impeachments votes against Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov after rejecting a compromise proposed by the two men. The deal enraged the legislators because it would have eliminated the congress — and their jobs — in favour of a bicameral legislature.

Mr. Khasbulatov threatened to renew impeachment efforts against Mr. Yeltsin if the president continued to incite the population to rebel against the communist-dominated congress.

During Sunday's pro-Yeltsin demonstration, when about 50,000 people rallied at the Kremlin gates, Mr. Khasbulatov said there were "open calls for revolt."

At the rally, Mr. Yeltsin said he would obey "only the will of the people," and he accused the congress of "stirring up all of Russia."

One lawmaker claimed to have been injured at the rally.

There has been violence on both sides of the political battle.

The Congress of People's Deputies agreed on four referendum questions, including a question asking whether people approved the economic reforms Mr. Yeltsin began in 1992.

Presidential aides have denounced the question as being designed to elicit a "no" vote.

The Yeltsin-Khasbulatov proposal also would have cancelled the referendum and called new presidential and legislative elections in November.

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National Rally to be held Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Auto sports enthusiasts are still signing up for the first of this season's three national rallies, which will set off from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) Thursday evening.

25 competitors have already registered, with the deadline being Tuesday, and scrutineering set for Wednesday afternoon.

The night rally, which will be held in the north of the Kingdom, is expected to be contested by the country's top drivers vying for advanced placements in the 1993 Jordan Open Drivers' Championship.

The 1992 champion Marwan Abu Hamad, and second placed Reimond Fleifel will be one of over 30 drivers taking part.

Martinez wins Slims of Houston

HOUSTON (R) — Third seed Conchita Martinez of Spain ran unseeded German Sabine Hack ragged Sunday to win the \$37,000 Virginia Slims of Houston tennis tournament.

Martinez, playing with fractured finger, scored a 6-3 6-2 victory in one hour and 22 minutes after receiving a shot of novocaine to numb the pain in her racket hand.

"This will help me a lot for my confidence," said Martinez, who earned \$75,000 for her second title of the year and will move up to seventh in the world to equal her career best ranking.

"The win yesterday was especially good," she said of Saturday's semifinal upset of top seed

DAVIS CUP ROUNDUP Switzerland join United States in first-round trash heap

By The Associated Press

IF LOSING the defending champion in the first round for the first time in 10 years wasn't bad enough, the Davis Cup also lost the runner-up Sunday when India eliminated Switzerland to start a wild day.

Trailing 2-1 after Saturday's doubles, Switzerland's Marc Rosset evened the score with India by winning the opening reverse singles match Sunday, 6-4, 6-4 over teen-ager Leander Paes.

But 31-year-old, 14-year-pro Ramesh Krishnan became a hero by beating Jakob Hlasek 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 and sending India into a second-round meeting with France.

The weekend started with Australia eliminating the defending champion Americans by the end of Saturday's doubles. Australia

finished with a 4-1 victory, sparking discussion about the future of American captain Tom Gorman.

But besides India's upset, later Sunday the Netherlands rallied from a 2-1 deficit and won the first two sets of both reverse singles to beat Spain 3-2 in Barcelona.

Additionally, tiny Luxembourg beat Kenya 4-1 in Europe-Africa Zone 1 and will go through to the next round for the first time ever. It plays Belgium next month.

In other World Group matches, France completed its 4-1 victory over Austria; Sweden swept Cuba 5-0; Czechoslovakia beat Denmark 4-1; Germany finished off Russia 4-1 as did Italy over Brazil.

In zonal play it was Japan 5, Hong Kong 0; China 3, Iran 2; Thailand 5, Pakistan 0; Malaysia 4, Jordan 1; Hungary 4, Finland

1; Zimbabwe 4, Norway 1; Argentina 4, Mexico 1; Canada 3; Chile 1; and Peru 5; Paraguay 0.

Netherlands 3, Spain 2; At

Barcelona, Paul Haarhuis and Mark Koevermans both battled from two sets down as the Netherlands rallied to advance to a quarterfinal matchup against Switzerland to be played in the Netherlands.

Haarhuis tied the match at 2-all by beating Carlos Costa 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, (8-6), 6-4. Koevermans then beat Sergi Bruguera 3-6, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4 in a match that lasted 4 hours, 32 minutes.

Sweden 5, Cuba 0; At Kalmar, Sweden, Stefan Edberg and Nicklas Kulti completed a sweep by winning their reverse singles.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, beat Mario Tabares 6-3, 6-1. Asia-Oceania Zone Group 1

Japan 5, Hong Kong 0; At Hong Kong, Shuzo Matsukata beat Michael Walker 6-3, 6-7 (5-7) 6-3

and Yasufumi Yamamoto beat Kong's Colin Grant 6-2, 6-1.

Italy 4, Brazil 1; In Modena,

Italy, Jaime Oncins beat Omar Camporese 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to earn Brazil's lone consolation victory. Italy had clinched the victory and a berth in the quarterfinals against Australia with a victory in Saturday's doubles. Diego Nargi

so beat Cassio Motta 6-1, 6-2 to complete the rout.

Asia-Oceania Zone Group 1

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Kong, Shuzo Matsukata beat Michael Walker 6-3, 6-7 (5-7) 6-3

and Yasufumi Yamamoto beat

Kong's Colin Grant 6-2, 6-1.

Milan still confident

ROME — (R) Ruud Gullit believes AC Milan are emerging from their poor patch of form which cost them their 58 game unbeaten record and will go on to claim the Italian Championship with a flourish.

Gullit, whose goal Sunday rescued Milan from a second successive league defeat and earned them a 1-1 draw at Torino, said he expected them to overcome a 2-0 first leg deficit against Roma in the Italian Cup semifinals Tuesday.

"We are a side of great pride and we proved that we are not finished. Our recent defeats by Roma in the cup and by Parma in the league were merely isolated incidents," said Gullit, a second half substitute against Torino.

Milan coach Fabio Capello, whose side chase an unprecedented treble of league, cup and European Cup, was in equally confident mood.

"Anyone who was worried about our stamina and freshness has had his worries answered."

Gullit, who was being rested for Tuesday's encounter with Roma before being sent on to revive Milan's fortunes after they conceded a first minute goal Sunday, is looking forward to the Roma cup tie.

Roma coach Vujadin Boskov, who rested German Thomas Haessler Sunday, is not prepared to make any predictions.

"We obviously start against Milan with a nice advantage, but they're still a great side," he said.

The other cup tie Wednesday is an all Turin affair with Torino meeting Juventus in a derby that resumes with the score 1-1.

Juventus struggled to overcome second from bottom Ancona Sunday, winning 1-0 away thanks to a 79th minute header from Brazilian defender Julio Cesar.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MARCH 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

policies and desires have been at your home and continue going after them with steadfastness for your true success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be wise now to concentrate upon principles and tenets you have found to work for you over a period of time, don't throw them over for new ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look for some ways to use your property and possessions to greater advantage than you have been able to do but don't take chances with your money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can have a happy day at the accepted delights that you and your chosen romantic partner have found to be gratifying in the past.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A purposeful friend who has been loyal when you needed that persons guidance is available to be helpful to you at this time when you need it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you have been striving to do to make your personal life happier and more, in tune with your basic needs, pursue those objectives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) To be a good citizen today it is best to do those things which are regarded as evidence of having your community interests at heart so don't make new waves.

Hack's heavy topspin groundstrokes

"It was difficult," said Martinez, who plans to take three weeks off to give her finger a chance to heal.

"I just had to get used to the bounce of the ball. It was really coming with a lot of topspin and it bounded different," added Martinez, who fell behind 3-1 in the first set.

When Martínez figured out how to handle Hack's topspin, the German never had a chance.

Martínez ran off the next five games to take the first set and dominated the second as well.

"I'm feeling pretty good," she said.

Kenyans plot victory like a military campaign

from a lapped teammate but was reinstated on appeal.

Kenyan Richard Chelimo was the victim on that occasion, enjoying the status of Olympic champion for less than 24 hours before being relegated to second place.

The decision understandably angered the Kenyan team who briefly considered pulling out of the Olympics.

They have not forgiven Skah and if any further incentive were needed the outspoken Moroccan himself provided it shortly before Sunday's championships.

Skah said it was going to be easy for him because (John) Ngugi was not there and Chelimo wasn't there," Coggi said.

Ngugi, who has won the title a record five times, is currently suspended for refusing to take a drug test while Chelimo was not selected.

In their absence, the Kenyans decided national champion Siegi was the man to take the title and designated Dominic Kirui and Chelimo's brother fsmael Kirui as Skah.

For most of the race, on a fast well grassed surface ideally suited to Africans, Sigi kept out of trouble in third place.

"We were taking care of them," Coggi explained. "We didn't want anybody to spike him. That was why he was running alone."

Then, in the final straight, Sigi loped easily to the front to win by five seconds from Dominic Kirui with Ismael Kirui in third place.

Coggi sees a clear resemblance between Siegi and Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000 metres champion.

"He has the long legs. If there was mud he could manage. If it's raining Siegi could manage," Coggi said.

As Skah knows only too well the Kenyans have employed similar tactics in the past on the track.

Two years ago Chelimo paced Moses Tanui to the world 10,000 metres title in Tokyo while Thomas Osano slowed down a following group which included eventual bronze medalist Skah.

When the Brazilian driver, a three-time world champion, took the lead on the 42nd lap after a torrential downpour caused Prost to skid into a stalled car and slide off the track.

Senna, driving a McLaren-Ford, finished the 71 laps around the twisting 4.325-kilometre Interlagos track in 1 hour, 51 minutes and 15.485 seconds. His average speed was 165.601 kilometres per hour.

He credited his victory to God.

"When he wants something to happen nothing can change it," Britain's Damon Hill was second to a Williams-Renault. Michael Schumacher of Germany was third in a Benetton-Ford, and Johnny Herber of England took fourth in a Lotus-Ford.

Rookie sensation Mark Blundell of Britain, finishing in points for the second straight race, was fifth in a Ligier-Renault. Italy's Alessandro Zanardi took sixth in the second Lotus-Ford.

Senna, starting in third, scooted past Hill at the race start and tried to pressure Prost.

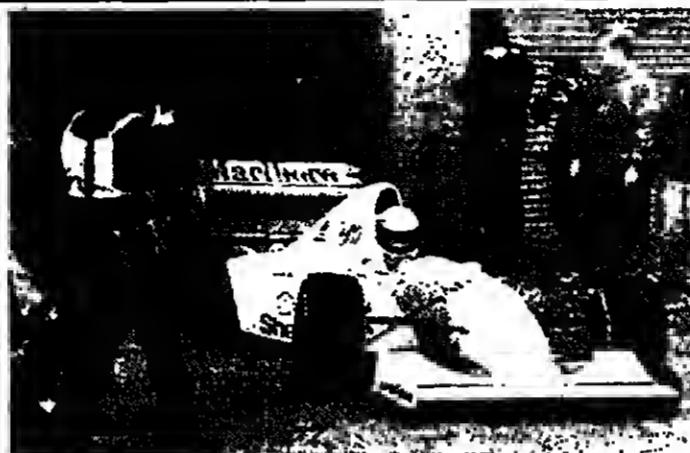
But the Frenchman, also a three-time champion, took advantage of the pole position and opened up a wide lead in his powerful Williams-Renault.

Senna lost a further position on the 11th lap when Hill passed him, and then dropped back to fourth when he was penalized 10 seconds for passing another car while a yellow caution flag was out and Schumacher zoomed by.

Hill, who returned with the lead, held off Senna until the 42nd lap, when the Brazilian dashed past on a curve.

The two raced fastest laps as they darted in and out among slower cars. But Senna gradually widened his lead, and Hill gave up the chase.

"I had a car I could win with," said Hill, the son of racing legend Graham Hill. "But I ran into traffic and decided it was best to hold on with second place."



Ayrton Senna behind the wheel of his McLaren (AFP photo)

Senna wins Brazilian Formula 1 Grand Prix

SAO PAULO (AP) — Ayrton Senna won the rain-plagued Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix auto race Sunday and leapfrogged past archrival Alain Prost in the season standings.

The Brazilian driver, a three-time world champion, took the lead on the 42nd lap after a torrential downpour caused Prost to skid into a stalled car and slide off the track.

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ARE, Sweden (AP) — Racing under pressure on the final day of the season, Anita Wachter of Austria stayed cool and captured her first women's overall World Cup title.

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Rookie sensation Mark Blundell of Britain, finishing in points for the second straight race, was fifth in a Ligier-Renault. Italy's Alessandro Zanardi took sixth in the second Lotus-Ford.

Senna, starting in third, scooted past Hill at the race start and tried to pressure Prost.

But the Frenchman, also a three-time champion, took advantage of the pole position and opened up a wide lead in his powerful Williams-Renault.

Senna lost a further position on the 11th lap when Hill passed him, and then dropped back to fourth when he was penalized 10 seconds for passing another car while a yellow caution flag was out and Schumacher zoomed by.

Hill, who returned with the lead, held off Senna until the 42nd lap, when the Brazilian dashed past on a curve.

The two raced fastest laps as they darted in and out among slower cars. But Senna gradually widened his lead, and Hill gave up the chase.

"I had a car I could win with," said Hill, the son of racing legend Graham Hill. "But I ran into traffic and decided it was best to hold on with second place."

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Racing under pressure on the final day of the season, Anita Wachter of Austria stayed cool and captured her first women's overall World Cup title.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993 7

EC: Japan must allow bigger European presence

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will not fully belong to the international community until European companies receive the same chances in Japan as Japanese companies enjoy in the European Community, EC Vice President Martin Bangemann said Monday.

"Japanese companies have a strong presence in Europe, and Japan cannot be a member of the new global partnership unless it is the same in all respects," he said. "A European presence is essential."

Speaking at a meeting of the European Business Council, a private industry group, Mr. Bangemann said the EC has made major concessions in multilateral trade negotiations that have not brought fully fair trade between Japan and Europe. He said the European indust-

rial climate does not prevent Japanese auto makers from setting up plants in Europe, while most European companies still find it impossible to manufacture in Japan.

"We explicitly avoided blocking any Japanese transplants in Europe because we believe it is essential to have (Japanese) industry actually present — not just selling cars — in Europe," he said. "But it is difficult to refer to equal chances for European companies in Japan."

The EC and Japan now are negotiating how many cars Japan may sell in Europe this year under a 1991 agreement to limit Japanese auto exports. No agreement has been reached because of the two sides' differing predictions on how much the European market will shrink this year.

Gulf Air to invest in Jet Airways

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf Air is to invest in a new Indian domestic airline to be launched next month, company officials said Monday.

Hamad Al Medfa, the company's executive vice president for marketing, said Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways would ready to participate financially in the new airline, Jet Airways, but were awaiting the approval of Indian authorities.

"With regard to Gulf Air participation, it's still in the pipeline, we are waiting clearance of the authorities in India," he told reporters at press conference.

Mr. Medfa was speaking at the opening of the two-day annual marketing conference at company headquarters in Bahrain.

Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, has allocated \$10 million for advertising over the next two years.

Abdul Rahman Al Gaad, executive vice president of operations, meanwhile confirmed reports that the company was studying the possibility of floating shares to the public. He said the final decision was up to the owner governments.

The idea is there and has been studied, but the decision is left to the governments who own the

company," he said.

According to Mr. Medfa, the new Indian domestic airline will launch its services next month and efforts are under way to get the green light from the Indian authorities.

"Jet Airways is in the process of receiving their final authorisation from the ... government of India," he said. "Information that I have is that they are launching their services on April 17."

He said Jet Airways already had leased four new Boeing 737-300 aircraft from Ansett of Australia, and four more would join them in September.

The airplanes are on their way to India for the launch," he said.

Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways are pursuing the deal through Jet Air Travel Agency, the Indian subsidiary of Gulf Air, in which they are shareholders.

Gulf Air also is investing \$6 million in a \$30 million hotel and catering project set up through Taj Group at Bombay's International Airport.

The investments are part of an expansion programme by Gulf Air, which is expecting a turnover of \$1 billion in 1993.

It has embarked on a \$2.2 billion fleet expansion that will add nine more aircraft to its present fleet of some three dozen Boeing 767s, Boeing 737s, Lockheed TriStars and Airbus AS320s.

The idea is there and has been studied, but the decision is left to the governments who own the

Yeltsin acts to raise living standards

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Sunday acknowledged the crippling effects of his economic reforms on large segments of society and issued decrees to help those hit hardest.

Mr. Yeltsin doubled the minimum wage, increased allowances for students and the disabled, improved health care funding for government workers, and gave regional governments the right to stabilize skyrocketing prices for basic goods.

The measures fulfill pledges in Mr. Yeltsin's March 20 televised speech to accelerate free-market reforms, which have been thwarted by hard-line lawmakers and bureaucrats.

That speech, in which Mr. Yeltsin threatened to impose "special rule" and seek a confidence vote in a referendum, touched off Russia's worst political crisis since the 1991 coup.

Mr. Yeltsin's decrees were made public on the third day of an emergency session of the Congress of People's deputies called to resolve the crisis. The decrees, signed Saturday and Sunday, would:

— Double the minimum monthly wage to 4,500 rubles (\$6.57).

— Give the government two months to come up with procedures to ensure Russians earn enough money or receive adequate pensions.

— Increase tax incentives for the production of consumer goods, and reconsider special benefits granted to exporters, such as tax exemptions and exemptions from the law requiring foreign currency earnings be sold back to the state for rubles.

— Increase funds for health care for government workers.

— Step up social support for the poorest sections of society, such as special stores.

— Increase allowances for students and the disabled. A new \$1 million fund will be created to help the disabled.

— Give regional governments the right to freeze prices for basic goods and services, using their own funds.

— Improve benefits for the military, including better housing and compensation for victims of accidents, military exercises and working with nuclear weapons.

— Require government agencies to consider the social consequences of all economic reforms and their effect on living standards.

— Require the cabinet to consult with trade unions about wages and prices.

Mr. Yeltsin also promised March 20 to speed up privatisation of land and businesses, care for the growing number of unemployed, fight inflation, and stabilise the sinking ruble.

GATT: World trade growth rises for first time since 1988

GENEVA (AP) — U.S. economic recovery led a rise in world trade last year, reversing a four-year slide in trade growth, a report by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said Sunday.

But the report by economists for GATT, the global trade organisation with more than 100 member nations, said problems threatened moderate world-trade growth that has been forecast for 1993.

Worries include uncertain

prospects for economic growth in much of western Europe, including Germany, France and Italy, as well as Japan and the countries of the former Soviet Union, it said. Bright spots include eastern and central Europe and the "booming re-export trade between Hong Kong and China."

With Hong Kong acting as a gateway for Chinese exports and imports, the increase of such trade with the mainland increased strongly in 1992, the report said.

Hong Kong's re-exports rose by 28 per cent to \$88.1 billion, the report said. It said a "substantial" share of the imports were re-exported, but it gave no figure.

The report, which expressed world trade both in volume and in dollar terms, said merchandise

and services

volume

rose

by 4.5 per cent in 1992.

That compares with growth of nearly nine per cent in 1988, followed by seven per cent in 1990 and only three per cent in 1991, the report said.

In dollar terms the value of world merchandise trade increased by 5.5 per cent in 1992 to \$3.7 trillion, it said.

"North America's recovery, centered in the United States, lifted the region's demand for the former communist countries to modernise factories and build new facilities, as well as to meet food and other consumer needs," the report said.

However, it said, "Germany's slow and then negative economic growth caused a slump in import growth from 13 per cent in 1991 to two per cent last year and was a key element in western Europe's lower import growth."

France's imports increased 3.4 per cent to \$240 billion, moving it ahead of Japan into third place among the world's leading importers for the first time since 1987.

Eastern and central Europe reported their first group increase in exports and imports since the overthrow of communism, with

trade shifting towards western Europe and away from the former Soviet Union.

"Western Europe's imports from central and eastern Europe, up from 20 per cent in 1992, continued to be concentrated in the traditional categories of food, steel and clothing," it said.

But western Europe benefited even more, reporting an increase of 24 per cent in exports to the region because of the needs of the former communist countries to modernise factories and build new facilities, as well as to meet food and other consumer needs, the report said.

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New French government has narrow economic options

PARIS (R) — Like a poker player with an unpromising hand, France's new centre-right government must play its cards skilfully and keep the franc steady in

its room for manoeuvre is very tight. So all it can do is make a play to restore people's confidence," Philippe Cheval, an economist at Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), said Monday.

Swept to power in an electoral landslide, the centre-right's policy commitments and international constraints give it little scope quickly to reverse the rising unemployment that provoked massive rejection of the Socialists, economists said.

Yet that must be the top priority of centre-right leaders, already eyeing a presidential election due within two years and fearful that voters may have handed them a poisoned chalice.

"Its room for manoeuvre is very tight. So all it can do is make a play to restore people's confidence," Philippe Cheval, an economist at Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), said Monday.

Economists said the February jobs total, due for release Tuesday or Wednesday, could well break three million, or more than 10.5 per cent of the workforce, for the first time.

French three-month interest rates are just below 11 per cent, a huge nine percentage points above inflation and three points greater than Germany's, where inflation is higher.

"This risk premium is entirely based on mistrust of the franc policy... (the government) must immediately make a clear declaration to keep the strong franc.

"With a budget deficit at 300 billion francs (\$3.6 billion) and zero growth expected this year, they have very little room for manoeuvre in handling the burning issue of unemployment," Patrick Chaussepied of economic forecasting institute BIPE said.

The budget gap, which it has promised to plug, limits the government's scope to spend the economy back on track, although planned privatisations will provide extra cash.

Its scope to cut interest rates is limited by its strong political commitment to maintaining the

franc's link to the mark and, therefore, by how far Germany will ease its own rates.

The size of the task facing the new cabinet, likely to be led by a Gaullist former finance minister Edouard Balladur, will be underlined by the first economic statistics it will receive.

Economists said the February jobs total, due for release Tuesday or Wednesday, could well break three million, or more than 10.5 per cent of the workforce, for the first time.

If the German central bank eases policy again Thursday, as many economists expect, the Bank of France could start shaving its own official rates right away.

The centre-right has pledged to find an immediate 20 billion francs (\$3.6 billion), much of which will pump into the building industry and small firms to create jobs quickly.

It has also promised to start scrapping some payroll taxes and will not try to slash 1993's budget deficit, likely to top 300 billion francs (\$54 billion).

Monthly inflation hits 225% in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — Monthly inflation in Yugoslavia hit a record 225.8 per cent in March, government officials have announced. The officials were quoted by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug as saying retail prices over the month ending March 21 rose by an average 4.3 per cent a day.

Mr. Yeltsin also promised March 20 to speed up privatisation of land and businesses, care for the growing number of unemployed, fight inflation, and stabilise the sinking ruble.

Its scope to cut interest rates is limited by its strong political commitment to maintaining the

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and

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Happy Eid

U.N. relief convoy evacuates Srebrenica sick and wounded

TUZLA, Bosnia (R) — A relief convoy evacuated more than 2,300 sick and wounded women, children and elderly people from the encircled Muslim town of Srebrenica Monday, U.N. officials said.

The latest U.N.-brokered ceasefire seemed to be holding throughout the embattled republic since the truce went into effect Sunday, U.N. officials said.

"The convoy of 19 trucks with the sick and wounded left Srebrenica this morning," Lyndall Sacks from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told Reuters in Belgrade.

The convoy was 20 minutes away from Caparje on its way to the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla, U.N. military observers said.

Peter Kessler, UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo, said 264 women and 387 children on the trucks had serious medical problems.

Another U.N. aid convoy prepared to set out Monday for Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. Ms. Sacks said: "It will push on to its destination the minute we hear that the convoy with Srebrenica evacuees has left the Zvornik area," she said.

The 16-truck convoy carried

tents, plastic sheeting and food.

The evacuation of Srebrenica's sick and wounded and free passage of aid to the enclave were part of an agreement hammered out Friday between the U.N. Protection Force commander in Bosnia, General Philippe Morillon, and Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic.

Victor Andreev, UNPROFOR

civil affairs coordinator, said a general agreement had been reached with the Bosnian Serbs

"that those who lay down their arms can leave Srebrenica."

Mr. Kessler said thousands of people were milling around on the town's streets, making relief work difficult to organise.

The problem was the limited

U.N. presence on the ground

necessary to maintain order as the convoy loads, he said.

"There are three UNHCR

staff, a handful of UNPROFOR

officers and their just town fathers and their appointed repre-

sentatives for crowd control," Mr. Kessler said.

A relief convoy for Zepa, stopped Sunday in Zvornik by Bosnian Serbs, demanding to count ammunition and later stranded by bad weather, left for its destination Monday.

Bosnian radio warned the situation in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia was deteriorating rapidly.

It said Gorazde has received no recent aid after several inbound convoys were blocked and air-drops were becoming scarce.

"People will begin starving as they are in Srebrenica if supplies don't get through soon," the radio said.

UNPROFOR said the ceasefire that went into effect Sunday was generally holding in Sarajevo and across Bosnia.

Bosnian radio said Sarajevo was quiet and reported unusual tranquility throughout the republic although it said Bosnian Serbs were continuing an overnight assault on the town of Turbe.

Bosnian Serbs reported violations by Muslim and Croat forces in Capljina in Herzegovina, Doboj in northern Bosnia, Rijeka and Ilidza near Sarajevo and incidents near Foca and Teslic.

Mr. Andreev was not optimis-

tic the truce would hold for long. "I think we will see further ups and downs on our way... I'm not very optimistic," he said. "It takes time and pressure."

Germany, brushing off Serb threats to shoot down its aircraft, joined the United States and France in high altitude airdrops over Bosnia and said it would continue the night time missions Monday.

Croatia's government resigned Monday and Prime Minister Hrvoje Sarinic said he would discuss any new mandate with President Franjo Tudjman, Croatian Radio reported from Zagreb.

"The Croatian government has resigned," Croatian radio said after receiving a statement from Mr. Sarinic following a meeting of government ministers.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Monday accepted the resignation of his government and appointed the head of Croatia's state-owned oil company as the new prime minister.



Sarajevo children take advantage of the ceasefire to play 'war games' in the snow. The ceasefire which took effect at noon is being respected apart from sporadic sniper fire (AFP photo)

once the mission had started all his fears vanished.

Fighting flared up in northern Dalmatia, Croatia, after two days of calm, Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

Croatian radio reported Monday morning a general alert in the port of Zadar after a Serb artillery attack.

Croatia's government resigned Monday and Prime Minister Hrvoje Sarinic said he would discuss any new mandate with President Franjo Tudjman, Croatian Radio reported from Zagreb.

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Croatian President Franjo

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and appointed the head of

Croatia's state-owned oil company as the new prime minister.

"President Franjo Tudjman accepted today the resignation of Prime Minister Hrvoje Sarinic and the members of the Croatian government," the president's office said in a statement. "Nikica

Valentic has been given the mandate to form a new government."

Mr. Valentic was expected to meet Mr. Tudjman later Monday to discuss the new administration.

President's spokeswoman Vesna Skare said the move was

expected following regional polls in February which completed the elections to bodies of a new independent Croatia.

"A complete reorganisation of the government will now take place," she said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President Al Gore said lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia's embattled

Muslims remains a policy option as the United States pressures

Bosnian Serbs to accede to a

peace agreement.

NATO, E. European ministers urge Bosnian Serbs to sign peace plan

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO and its former foes, including Russia, urged the Bosnian Serbs Monday to sign an international peace plan to end the war in Bosnia, saying the conflict was "a serious threat to security and stability."

"In view of the agreement of the other interested parties, we call upon the Bosnian Serb leadership to agree to the peace plan," defence ministers from NATO, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union said in a statement.

While the Croats and Muslims have signed the plan, drawn up by international mediators Lord Oweo and Cyrus Vance, the Bosnian Serbs have so far refused to do so.

NATO is planning to send between 50,000 and 75,000 troops to enforce the agreement, but only when all parties have signed.

Russia, with traditional links to Serbia, also signed the statement after the meeting of more than 30 countries at alliance headquarters.

"We continue to be deeply disturbed by the situation in former Yugoslavia... which despite hopes of progress in the peace negotiations, remains a serious threat to security and stability," the statement said.

The ministers also agreed to cooperate more closely on joint military planning and exercises for future peacekeeping missions in post-cold war Europe, troubled by tensions and numerous conflicts from Nagorno-Karabakh to Bosnia.

"It is important in the present circumstances, where regional in-

stabilities and risks have proliferated, that we continue to enhance our ability to work effectively together," the statement said.

NATO plans for enforcing the Bosnia peace plan may also include troops from Eastern European nations and perhaps Russia.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev was expected to comment on the political crisis in Russia, which NATO is worried could bring an end to East-West cooperation if reforms fail.

Mr. Grachev had told NATO earlier he would not be able to come, but changed his mind over the weekend when it seemed President Boris Yeltsin had beaten off the immediate threat to his power, officials said.

While the Croats and Muslims have signed the plan, drawn up by international mediators Lord Oweo and Cyrus Vance, the Bosnian Serbs have so far refused to do so.

"Against the background of the range of crises which have developed in and around Europe, it is clear that peacekeeping in the broad sense has become an important instrument," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told the meeting.

However, there are serious problems with enforcing the peace plan in Bosnia.

NATO nations have been reluctant to commit forces, there are disagreements about how the command structure would work and the alliance's military authorities have expressed serious doubts about whether it can be enforced.

No major decisions were expected from Monday's meeting, partly because France — which has most of the U.N. forces already in Bosnia — is not represented. France does not attend meetings of NATO defence

ministers.

However, the alliance has completed plans to use fighters to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia, if and when the U.N. Security Council votes to do so.

The discussion of joint peacekeeping missions is part of a growing network of closer diplomatic and military ties between the 16-nation Western alliance and its former enemies.

But NATO has ruled out taking on any new members for now, despite the fact that many Eastern European nations, worried about growing instability in Europe, want to join the alliance.

Four Eastern European countries, nervous about the power struggle in Russia, which is currently touring New Zealand. Asked on Radio New Zealand about Linda's comments that, being a beef farmer, Mr. Bolger could not be very intelligent, the conservative New Zealand leader replied: "Well poor old Linda has got problems, hasn't she?" "She can go running around the world doing what she likes being a spoilt little rich girl," said Mr. Bolger. The prime minister said he had no plans to give up raising beef.

COLUMN

Where's the beef? N. Zealand premier tells star's wife

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger brushed off the vegetarian views of Linda McCartney, wife of Beatles' star Paul, on Monday, calling her a "spoilt little rich girl."

Linda McCartney has caused a stir in Australia and New Zealand, attacking the prime ministers of both countries for farming livestock. Linda, wealthy in her own right as part of the Kodak film empire, is playing in her husband's band which is currently touring New Zealand. Asked on Radio New Zealand about Linda's comments that, being a beef farmer, Mr. Bolger could not be very intelligent, the conservative New Zealand leader replied: "Well poor old Linda has got problems, hasn't she?" "She can go running around the world doing what she likes being a spoilt little rich girl," said Mr. Bolger. The prime minister said he had no plans to give up raising beef.

Officer's \$5 offer keeps man from jumping

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A white man who said he was distraught because he'd just been robbed by black youths of his last two dollars climbed down from a bridge after a black policeman offered him \$5. The man, identified by authorities only as Louis, climbed atop the Seventh Street Bridge over the Allegheny River around 7:30 p.m. Saturday (0030 GMT Sunday). Officer George Phillips, who is black, volunteered to join a medic and firefighter on a ladder 100 feet (30 yards) above the river. Officer Phillips tried to convince the man the robbery wasn't racially-motivated. "They stole his cigarette lighter and two dollars. That's all he had to his cent economic growth.

Monday's voting completed a three-day process that swept the few remaining old revolutionaries from top-level government posts in post-cold war Europe, troubled by tensions and numerous conflicts from Nagorno-Karabakh to Bosnia.

The Congress also approved three other vice premiers, eight state councillors and a full cabinet for five-year terms, completing its task of ratifying a new government lineup.

The nearly 3,000 delegates were not given a choice of candidates. The appointments had been decided earlier in secret by Mr. Deng and other Communist elders who remain China's most powerful men.

The new vice premiers include Foreign Minister Qian Qichen,

credited with restoring China's international standing after the vicious crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement, and outgoing Foreign Trade Minister Li Lanfang. Trade surged by more than one-fifth last year, contributing to China's 12.8 per cent economic growth.

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Chinese reformer gets top post

PEKING (AP) — Vice Premier Zhu Rongji, a fast-rising star who has been China's trouble-shooting economics czar, was appointed second-in-command of the government Monday.

The National People's Congress also adopted constitutional amendments that legally enshrine the market-style economic reforms of senior leader Deng Xiaoping. Mr. Zhu has been at the forefront in implementing them.

The term "state-owned economy" replaces "state-managed economy," reflecting the government's goal of making state enterprises manage and support themselves.

The sentence: "The state practices planned economy on the basis of Socialist public ownership" was replaced with "the state practices Socialist market

economy" — Mr. Deng's name for communism with free markets.

Mr. Zhu's promotion to first vice premier may help him consolidate a leading role in formulating economic policy. The 64-year-old former mayor of Shanghai is known for his strong support of Mr. Deng's reforms.

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No seats for France's National Front

PARIS (R) — France's far right National Front failed to win a single parliamentary seat in Sunday's first round of voting, outflanked by a resurgent conservative right and penalised by a constituency-based voting system.

The party, seen as a pariah by the mainstream parties because of its aggressively nationalist, xenophobic policies, lost its only National Assembly seat when Deputy Marie France Stirbois fell to a Gaullist in the northern town of Dreux.

Party leader Jean Marie Le Pen trailed far behind centre-right candidate Rudy Salles in the Mediterranean port of Nice, while Mr. Le Pen's deputy Bruno Megret lost by 546 votes to Socialist Henri d'Attilio in a constituency outside nearby Marseille.

With just a few dozen seats still to count, outgoing Interior Minister Paul Quilès confirmed that the National Front would not be represented in the new parliament.

In the second round of voting, as predicted, exacerbated the gaping injustice of the two-round majority voting system.

He said on French television, reflecting similar sentiments felt by all fringe parties.

Mr. Le Pen also attacked the new centre-right majority, set to control four-fifths of parliament.

"This crushing victory could crush the victors. This majority is a viper's nest riven with basic conflicts of interest on a whole series of issues including immigration, monetary policy and especially Europe," he said.

The right wing of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) — biggest party in the centre-right

alliance — advocated ideas close to Mr. Le Pen's on clamping down on illegal immigrants and rejecting the Maastricht Treaty on European Union.

Moderate Gaullists and most of the more centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF) are, by contrast, pro-European.

Mr. Le Pen ran an uncharacteristically subdued campaign, only briefly causing a stir by claiming the French were subject to "ethnic cleansing" by immigrants in poor suburbs.

After last Sunday's first round, Mr. Le Pen decided to keep all 101 surviving National Front candidates in the race for parliament under a shamrock-decked banner. More than a dozen police in riot gear escorted the group, and sharpshooters with rifles stood on rooftops. Some spectators heckled, and a teenage boy threw coffee into the face of one marcher, who was uninjured. Others hurled stink and smoke bombs along the parade route.

The parade organisers, the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, had fought against allowing the gay group to march.

This one will run and run

ALGIERS (R) — He's hardly got his breath back after running across the Sahara Desert, but now he wants to do "something truly challenging" — run around the world in a year. "To show the extreme of man's endurance... I want to run round the world in one year," Kazakh athlete Marat Jilandaev, 29, told reporters in Algiers after smashing his own world record for vast distance running in extreme conditions. The slightly built Marat ran 1,700 kilometres across the Sahara in 24 days, losing five kilograms of weight and wearing out a pair of shoes along the way.

Pupils discipline striking teachers